



News Release

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GEORGIA FOREST REPORT SHOWS SUSTAINABILITY

Georgia's forestlands are undergoing some changes, but the state is maintaining its number one ranking in timberland, according to new statistics. The recently released US Forest Service Forest Inventory data for 2016 shows overall net growth of Georgia forestland exceeded removals by 44%, despite some losses in forestland, timberland and private timberland acreages.

"The good news is that growth is still far ahead of removals," said Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams. "Forestland losses totaled about 70,000 acres across the state in 2016, but total timber volume is up, and planting acreage continues to exceed harvested acreage," Williams said.

The report shows losses in softwood acreage were fairly consistent across the state, with a 72,000 acre decrease noted. Hardwood acreage increased by 10,000 acres.

Despite these fluctuations, Georgia maintains its #1 US rankings in timberland and private timberland at roughly 24 million and 22 million acres, respectively. Georgia's commercial timberland remains sustainable, with trees that grow very rapidly. When considered collectively, Georgia grows 64 cubic feet, or two tons of wood, per second! The Georgia Forestry Commission encourages landowners to plant more trees after harvests and offers genetically improved seedlings that produce superior timber.

"This report reflects the health and sustainability of Georgia's forest industry," said Williams. "Our private landowners are the backbone of the forest, and every Georgian benefits from their stewardship."

To find out more information about Forest Inventory and Analysis, visit <http://www.gatrees.org/forest-management/private-forest-management/forest-inventory> or <https://www.fia.fs.fed.us/tools-data/default.asp>.